

HEALTH
A 17 APR 1944
C.R. 37



CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT
IN THE
Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R

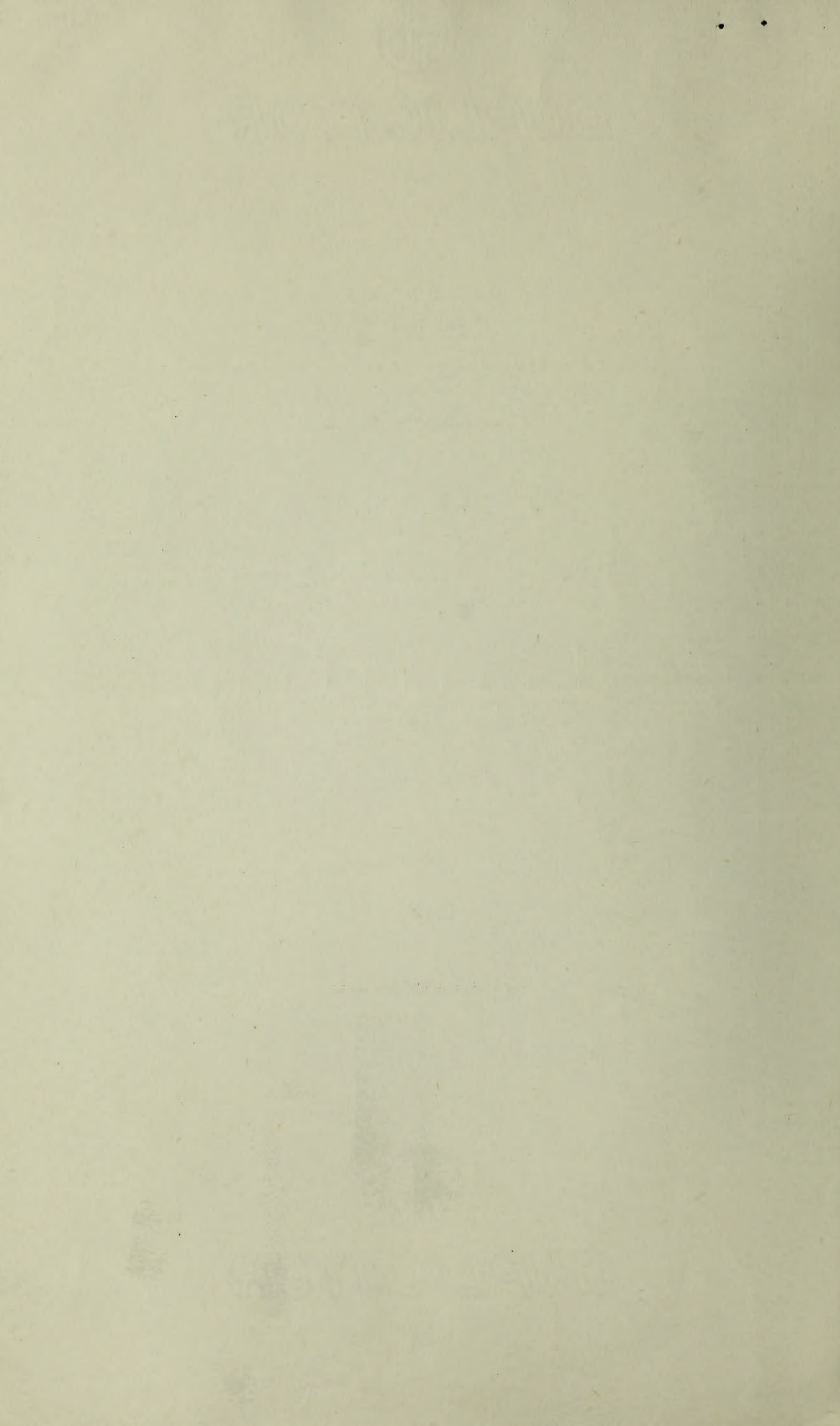
of

H E A L T H

for

1942

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CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department
County Hall,
Hobson Street,
Cambridge.

12th April, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Chesterton Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1942 on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics of the Chesterton Rural District. There are no immediately urgent matters to which it is necessary to draw attention. The general health of the population has been well maintained.

ARTHUR MORGAN

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area --- 111,692 acres

Number of Parishes --- 53

Rateable Value --- £136,215.

Sum represented by a penny rate --- 2550.

The district is agricultural in character and the principal occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing, jam making, etc.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the
year

Live Births :-	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	559	304	255
Illegitimate	26	17	9
Total	<u>585</u>	<u>321</u>	<u>264</u>

Birth Rate per thousand estimated population --- 16.6
" " " " population (England & Wales) --- 15.8

Stillbirths:-	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	14	4	10
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	<u>15</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>

Rate per thousand total (live and stillbirths) --- 25.0

Deaths:-	Total	Male	Female
	411	217	194

Death Rate per thousand estimated population --- 11.6
" " " " population (England and Wales) --- 11.6

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

(a) Puerperal sepsis --- Nil

(b) Other puerperal causes --- 2

Rate per thousand total (live and stillbirths) --- 3.3

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age :-

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate infants	26	17	9
Illegitimate infants	4	4	-
Totals	<u>30</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>9</u>

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per thousand live births --- 51.2

Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births --- 46.5

Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births --- 154.0

Deaths from cancer (all ages)	---	64
Deaths from measles (all ages)	---	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	---	1.
Deaths from influenza (all ages)	---	4.
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)		2.

Birth and Death Rates for the last four years:-

	1938	1939	1940	1941.
Birth Rate	12.5	13.7	12.0	12.5
Death Rate	10.4	12.6	15.8	14.1

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GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health - A whole time Officer who also acts for two other Rural Districts in this County.

Sanitary Inspectors - The normal staff consists of a Chief Sanitary Inspector and two other Inspectors, qualified by examination, who both hold the special certificate for meat and other foods. The two Additional Inspectors are both serving with H.M. Forces and the services of one temporary Additional Inspector has been obtained.

Laboratory Facilities:-

Chemical Analyses and bacteriological examinations of water etc. are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. Specimens for bacteriological examination in connection with infectious diseases are sent to the Emergency Public Health Laboratories, Cambridge. Samples of milk are examined at the University School of Agriculture.

Ambulance Facilities:-

The services of the Red Cross or Police Ambulances at Cambridge can be obtained when required for cases of accident or serious illness. Cases of infectious disease are removed by the Ambulance from the Borough Isolation Hospital.

Hospitals:-

Cases of infectious diseases are treated at the Cambridge Borough Isolation Hospital by agreement. The Oakington Isolation Hospital was closed in February 1938 and has since been taken over by the Cambridgeshire County Council for use as a Smallpox Hospital.

So far as General Hospitals are concerned, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge deals with the majority of cases from this area.

The only Hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of Tuberculosis in connection with Papworth Colony.

Nursing in the Home :- No alteration

Clinics and Treatment Centres :- No alteration.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE

AREA

The following is a Summary of the inspections carried out during 1942.

	1942
Total Inspections recorded	2,727.
Inspections under Milk and Dairies Orders	1,019.
Slaughter-house Inspections	18
Bakehouse Inspections	55
Infectious Cases Removed	53
Houses fumigated	69
Samples of Water Taken	71
Inspections of Food Premises	312
Inspections under Factories Act	136
Complainants investigated	346
Houses Inspected (Housing Acts)	109
Schools Inspected	79
Miscellaneous Visits	460

Housing

Number of Houses erected by the Local Authority for the purpose of Slum Clearance and the Abatement of Overcrowding:-

1942 --- 1

Number of Houses built or in course of construction by private enterprise were as follows:-

1942 --- 2

Number of Houses repaired by means of Grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts:-

1942 --- 2

Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts:-

	1942
Houses inspected	109
Demolition Orders made	1
Houses demolished	7
Houses made fit	22
Cases of Overcrowding Abated	-

Since the passing of the Housing Act 1930 the following action has been taken:-

Houses demolished	376
" " (voluntarily)	6
Houses in respect of undertakings have been accepted (Sec. 11)	49
Houses (or parts) Closed	4
Houses made fit by formal action	14
Houses made fit by Informal Action	466

(Note: These figures are totals up to 31st March 1943).

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining labour and materials work under the Housing Acts has been confined to the more essential repairs. In a number of instances action has been taken under the Public Health Act, 1936 rather than the Housing Acts. Furthermore, the above figures do not include the many houses substantially repaired and maintained by owners without the necessity for action by the Department.

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supplies

Main supplies in the area are derived from six waterworks, i.e., two private companies, three works owned by the Council and one Joint Water Board. Of the 53 Parishes 33 have a piped supply in some form. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining water in the locality the following parishes are in urgent need of an improved supply :-

Croxton	Hardwick
Eltisley	Lolworth
Graveloy	Papworth St. Agnes.

It became necessary to cart water to two parishes during the Summer months.

Chlorination.

With the exception of two works serving single parishes, all main supplies are chlorinated.

Sampling.

The public supplies are regularly sampled for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination and the results have been satisfactory throughout the year.

Samples taken for Analysis (Public and Private Supplies):-

	1942
Samples reported satisfactory	66
Samples reported unfit	5

SHOPS ACT, 1934

Certain Sub-sections of Section 10 are administered by the District Council dealing with the provision of Sanitary conveniences, ventilation, lighting and heating.

There are 287 shops of various categories on the Register. More than half these are in conjunction with dwelling-houses and the available sanitary conveniences serve both. Steps are taken to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied with.

No certificates of exemption from the provision of sanitary accommodation have been issued during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

1942

Sites in use	-
Applications for licences approved	-
Licences refused	1

Apart from a small number of caravan dwellers engaged on seasonal agricultural work, and whose stay is usually under 42 days, there is practically no camping in the district. It was necessary to remove a child suffering from Scarlet Fever from a caravan during the year but apart from this no necessity for action arose under the Public Health Act, 1936.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools in the District which are open to the public.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND OTHER VERMIN .

The district appears to be reasonably free from infestation with bed bugs, and very few complaints have been received. The remedy found to be most effective is treatment of all woodwork etc., with Zaldecide and/or subsequent fumigation with block disinfestators of the sulphur type. In special cases where large cubic capacity is involved it is recommended that Hydrogen Cyanide be employed, the work being carried out by one of the firms specialising in this type of work.

1942

Houses fumigated for Bugs	3.
Houses fumigated for other vermin (including Scabies)	17.

The County Council administer the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act etc.

HOUSE DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

House Drains new or repaired	32
Closet Accommodation new or improved	14

SCHOOLS

Summary of Inspections and Action taken.

Total inspections of School premises	79
County Council Schools inspected	20
Non-provided Schools inspected	29
Hired Halls and Temporary Accommodation	9
Informal Notices Served	44

The work required by informal notices may be summarised as follows:-

Informal Notice	Cambs. C.C.	N-P Schools	Hired Halls.
Structural Repairs to School Buildings		3	
Improved Water Supply		5	
Repairs or improvements to Closets		9	
Additional Closet Accommodation	2	4	
Cleansing of Closets and Urinals		1	
Insufficient Heating of Classrooms	1	5	
Insufficient or unsurfaced playgrounds		10	
Overcrowding (Minor)	1		
Nuisances due to disposal of waste		2	
Cooking facilities for children staying to lunch		1	
Totals	4	40	-

SCAVENGING

Little alteration has taken place during the year. 23 parishes now have some form of collection, but with the exception of Histon and Impington which have a weekly general collection, improvement is desirable especially in the more Urban parishes.

General House Refuse

No. of parishes with Weekly Collection	2
" " " " fortnightly Collection	1

Unburnable Refuse.

No. of parishes with Fortnightly collection	1
No. of parishes with Monthly collection	4
No. of parishes with Quarterly Collection	7
No. of Parishes with $\frac{1}{2}$ yearly collection	4
No. of Parishes with Annual Collection	4.

Disposal is by means of controlled tipping. The Department is not responsible for the collection of Salvage.

In one large parish the collection of night soil from houses with limited ground space is undertaken by private contract.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

As will be seen from the summary of inspections a large proportion of the Inspectors' time has been devoted to inspections under the Milk and Dairies Orders.

Generally speaking, considerable improvement has been effected structurally in connection with Cowsheds and Dairies during the year as will be seen from the appended table.

<u>Register</u>	1942
Wholesale Producers on Register	188
Retail Producers	70
Wholesale and Retail Producers	22
Wholesale and Retail Purveyors	-
Purveyors (Retail only)	9
Total	<u>289</u>

Approx. number of cows kept 3,500.

The Cambridgeshire County Council administer the Milk (Special Designations) Orders and included in the above figures are 86 Accredited producers and 14 holding tuberculin - Tested Licences.

<u>Inspections</u>	1942
Inspections carried out	1,019
Informal Notices served	69
Samples of milk submitted	6
Samples failing to comply	4
Samples complying	2

Improvements

New Cowsheds erected	11
Cowsheds improved	9
New Dairies	6
Dairies improved	3
General improvements yards etc.	6

As a result of a minor outbreak of Sonne Dysentery in one parish, milk from one farm was suspected and a positive carrier discovered. After this person was excluded from handling milk no further cases occurred.

BAKEHOUSES

1942

Number on Register	24
Inspections made	55
Notices served	3

Minor repairs were carried out to several Bakehouses and one was substantially improved as a result of informal action.

PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES

1942

Number on Register	29
Inspections made	42
Notices served	-

Cleansing and limowashing was carried out in a number of instances upon verbal notice. Most premises are very little used at present.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

In 1939 the number of slaughterhouses in the area was as follows:-

Licenced Slaughterhouses	8
Registered Slaughterhouses	22
Knackers Yards	2
Total	<u>32</u>

The operation of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 with regard to these premises was suspended in view of the livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940 under which all private slaughtering in the area was discontinued. All meat at the present time is derived from Government Slaughterhouses and Depots in Cambridge. The supervision of butchers' premises and vehicles continues to receive attention and frequent visits are paid to butchers' shops for the purpose of examining the meat.

The mannuer in which meat is transported from the Depots to the various villages is still a matter of some concern.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

1942

Licences to Slaughter renewed	28
New licences granted	3
Total on Register	31.

Food Premises (Butchers' Shops etc.)

Visits paid	312.
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DECONTAMINATION OF FOODSTUFFS.

At the request of the Ministry of Food the Chief Sanitary Inspector has been appointed Food Decontamination Officer. A disused slaughterhouse of recent construction has been ear-marked and adapted for use as a Decontamination Site. A special Squad of eight persons has been enrolled and trained in their duties and exercises were held during the year under review.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Apart from two licenced Knackers Yards there are no offensive trades in the district. The knackers yards are periodically inspected and no complaints of nuisance have been received.

UNSOUND FOOD

Much of the foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption has been tinned goods which, owing to war-time hazards and restriction on packing materials, has been damaged in transit or storage. In one case, the Department was required to advise the Food Office on quantities of goods salvaged from a shop fire.

A full list of articles condemned would be too lengthy for this report.

Where ever possible condemned goods are utilised for animal feeding etc. under the supervision of the Food Salvage Officer.

Much damaged foodstuffs and condemned goods have been consigned into the area for manufacturing or animal feeding purposes. In all such cases the destination and disposal of the goods was checked.

FACTORIES (EXCLUDING BAKEHOUSES).

A summary of the work carried out during the year under the Factories Acts is appended below:-

	1942
No. of Factories with Mech. Power	44
No. of Factories without Mech. Power	21
Inspections carried out	136
Written Notices served	14
Notifications of Outworkers received	-
Infected premises	-

As a result of informal action the following work was carried out:-

Closet Accommodation, new or improved	7
Water Supply, new or improved	2
Drainage, New or improved	2
Cleansing of premises etc.	3

Prevalence and Control over Infectious
and other Diseases.

The following notifications of infectious Diseases were received during the year:-

Diphtheria 3, Scarlet fever 43, Erysipelas 12, Measles 25, Whooping cough 56, pneumonia 22, Puerperal pyrexia 6, Enteric fever 3, Dysentery 40. Thirty five of the dysentery cases and the three Enteric fever cases occurred at a Mental Hospital in the area. The remaining five cases of dysentery (Sonne Type) were notified from a small village. In this case a carrier was found to be handling milk. Fourteen deaths were attributed to pneumonia, one to diphtheria (unimmunised), and one to whooping cough. Measles and whooping cough became notifiable in October 1939,

Notifications of some of the principal infectious diseases during the last four years as compared with the present year:-

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Scarlet fever	16	17	69	25	43
Diphtheria	4	18	13	9	3
Measles	-	5	167	887	25
Whooping Cough	-	51	29	69	56
Pneumonia	14	19	47	31	22

Fifty three cases were removed during the year to the Cambridge Borough Isolation Hospital and sixty two disinfections were carried out.

Diphtheria Immunisation :-

Immunisation against diphtheria was commenced towards the end of 1938. The work is carried out by Medical Practitioners in the area. The County Council is responsible for dealing with Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical Inspection. The District Council, on the other hand, is concerned with infectious diseases and their prevention. The question of diphtheria immunisation is, therefore, one which interests both Authorities. The arrangement arrived at was for immunisation sessions to be held at Infant Welfare Centres and Schools throughout the area. The necessary material is supplied free of charge by the District Council who also pay the practitioners fees except in the case of Infant Welfare Centres. Originally the necessary material for immunisation had to be purchased, now it can be obtained free of charge from the Emergency Public Health Laboratory. Two injections of A.P.T. are given at an appropriate interval, but no Schick testing has been done. In June 1943 it was estimated that 50% of children under school age and 62% of school age had been fully protected. These figures are on the low side. The arrangements have now been extended and parents wishing to have their children protected, whether they are of school age or under, can have them immunised privately by any medical practitioner of their own choice. The District Council pays a fee of 7/6d to the practitioner for the two injections. This new arrangement is working very well.

Diphtheria Antitoxin:- Antitoxin is supplied free of charge to all Medical practitioners.

Non-notifiable infectious diseases:-

So far as can be ascertained there has been no unusual prevalence of these diseases. Scabies has presented a certain amount of difficulty in dealing with, but, here again, the number of cases coming to light has not been great.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	F	M
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
15	2	6	-	-	1	1	-	-
25	-	4	-	1	-	1	1	1
35	2	2	1	-	4	-	2	-
45	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
55	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
65 & over	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	6	16	3	3	7	6	3	1

There were three deaths of non-notified cases.

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(Signed) ARTHUR MORGAN

M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.